

Exodus 20:12-13 - Thursday, February 5th, 2009

- Tonight we will begin in verse 12 with the 5th commandment, and Lord willing, we'll see how far we'll be able to get without rushing.

12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.
- As a child, my parents made me memorize this particular commandment. Now as a parent, I plan to do the same with all my children.
- This fifth commandment has something none of the other commandments have; it's the first and only commandment with a promise.

Ephesians 6:1-3 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother"-which is the first commandment with a promise- 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." NIV

- This brings up an interesting question; "why does obeying this, of all the commandments, lead to a long, blessed, and fulfilled life?"
- One commentator has suggested that back then, dishonoring your parents was so serious that the child would be put to death.
- I suggest to you that there are two reasons for this, first there's a spiritual reason, and second, there's a physiological reason for this.

- Like Jesus, Who was one with the Father spiritually, so too are we spiritually connected to and reflective of our father and our mother.
- If we disobey and dishonor our parents, we're in fact tearing ourselves down because of our spiritual reflection and connection to them.

John 5:19-23 19 Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these. 21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. 22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. NIV

- Just as there is a spiritual connection, so too is there a physical, emotional, and physiological connection genetically to our parents.
- When we dishonor them, we dishonor ourselves, and it takes its toll on us and will negatively impact the quality and length of our lives.
- One has to look no further than to the ruined lives of those who dishonored and disrespected their parents to their own peril even death.

- What if ones parents are abusive, are children still required to obey and honor them?
1. No, it is never ok for a parent to abuse a child.
2. Children should not obey parents if it means they will be sinning against the Lord.
3. There is a difference between honoring and respecting; honor is given, respect is earned.
4. Jesus was abused, not by His Father, but for the forgiveness of the sins of man.

Isaiah 53:4-7 4 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. NIV

- In other words, God can take the bad and make it good. God the Father can smite and afflict God the Son for the salvation of mankind.
- I don't know "how" He does it I do know "that" He does it. I can testify to this; "No matter how bad it is, it can't change how good God is!"
- Who can know the mind of God? He may deem it necessary to allow something bad to happen, because He has a good end in mind.

YOU'LL FIND JESUS THERE - "Tomorrow morning," the surgeon began, "I'll open up your heart..." "You'll find Jesus there," the boy interrupted. The surgeon looked up, annoyed. "I'll cut your heart open," he continued, "to see how much damage has been done..." "But when you open up my heart, you'll find Jesus in there." The surgeon looked to the parents, who sat quietly. "When I see how much damage has been done, I'll sew your heart and chest back up and I'll plan what to do next." "But you'll find Jesus in my heart. The Bible says He lives there. The hymns all say He lives there. You'll find Him in my heart." The surgeon had had enough. "I'll tell you what I'll find in your heart. I'll find damaged muscle, low blood supply, and weakened vessels. And I'll find out if I can make you well." "You'll find Jesus there too. He lives there." The surgeon left. The surgeon sat in his office, recording his notes from the surgery, "...damaged aorta, damaged pulmonary vein, widespread muscle degeneration. No hope for transplant, no hope for cure. Therapy: painkillers and bed rest. Prognosis:," here he paused, "death within one year." He stopped the recorder, but there was more to be said. "Why?" he asked aloud. "Why did You do this? You've put him here; You've put him in this pain; and You've cursed him to an early death. Why?" The Lord answered and said, "The boy, My lamb, was not meant for your flock for long, for he is a part of My flock, and will forever be. Here, in My flock, he will feel no pain, and will be comforted as you cannot imagine. His parents will one day join him here, and they will know peace, and My flock will continue to grow." The surgeon's tears were hot, but his anger was hotter. "You created that boy, and You created that heart. He'll be dead in months. Why?" The Lord answered, "The boy, My lamb, shall return to My flock, for he has done his duty: I did not put My lamb with your flock to lose him, but to retrieve another lost lamb." The surgeon wept. The surgeon sat beside the boy's bed; the boy's parents sat across from him. The boy awoke and whispered, "Did you cut open my heart?" "Yes," said the surgeon. "What did you find?" asked the boy. "I found Jesus there," said the surgeon.
Author Unknown

13 "You shall not murder.

- Notice that it does not say; "you shall not kill," it say's; "you shall not murder." There is a difference between killing and murdering.
- Murder is the taking of one's life without legal justification whereas killing someone as in the death penalty, is justified after due process.
- What about in war? This is also justified morally as in the case of killing in self defense. In this case, I have the right to defend myself.

- Jesus raised the bar on this and the other commandments by saying that hating someone is like murdering them in our hearts.
- In other words, we can have so much anger for and hatred towards someone, we can actually wish that they were dead in our hearts.

"Anger, and the doing of anything injurious to the health of ourselves or others, are here forbidden. ... These commandments take a far wider sweep than the mere words. "Thou shalt not murder" includes the doing of anything by which life may be shortened as well as taken away".

Charles Spurgeon

- Before we move on to the seventh commandment, I think it would be good for us to look closer at how we can actually commit murder.
- We do indeed possess, within each of us, a murder weapon, and even the motive to murder as well. What is this murder weapon?

1. THE MURDER WEAPON - THE TONGUE

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

- In other words, the tongue is a powerful weapon, so much so, it can either give life or it can take a life.

JAMES 1:26 If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.

James 3:3-12 3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5 Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, 8 but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. 11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water. NIV

"How very strange that we have ever come to think that Christian maturity is shown by the ability to speak our minds, whereas it is really expressed in controlling our tongues."

Alan Redpath

2. THE MURDER MOTIVE - PRIDE, SELFISH AMBITION AND PLEASURE

James 4:1-3 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 2 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

- With my tongue I can deceive myself. It's caused from my desires that battle within me.
- If my motives for something are for selfish pleasure, I'll murder someone who is in the way.

3. THE MURDER TRIAL - SETTLE OUT OF COURT

Matthew 5:21-26 21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. 23 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. 25 "Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. 26 I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

- Anger is murder and I better settle out of court quickly, or my adversary will find me guilty. I'll be the one in prison.